which such selection is made; and

(d) whether there are proposals to include any new Magazines also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Ministry of Defence or its Departments have not entered into any contract for bulk supply of magazines of any language.

(b) to (d): Do not arise.

Revival of Sick Mills and Industries in Gujarat

*250. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action plan has been formulated or is proposed to be formulated by Government to revive and retrieve hundreds of closed and sick sugar mills, jute mills and other industries in Gujarat State;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c): Data on sick industrial units assisted by banks in the country is compiled by the Reserve Bank of India. 6391 industrial units in the small scale sector and 159 industrial units in the non-small scale sector were reported sick in the State of Gujarat, as at the end of September, 1992. Out of 159 non-SSI sick units, 82 units were reported closed.

Government has taken a number of steps for revival of sick industrial units. Some of the important steps taken by Government are given in the Statement.

Statement

Steps taken by Government for revival of sick industrial units

The Government has enacted a comprehensive legislation namely 'The Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985'. A quasi-judicial body designated as 'The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR)' has been set up under the Act to deal with the problems of the sick industrial companies in an effective manner, which has become operational with effect from the 15th May, 1987.

(2) The Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines to banks for strengthening the monitoring systems and for arresting industrial sickness at the incipient stage so that corrective measures are taken in time.

(3) Commercial banks have also been directed by the Reserve Bank of India to formulate rehabilitation packages for the revival of potentially viable units.

(4) The Reserve Bank of India has also issued guidelines to the banks indicating parameters within which banks could grant reliefs and concessions for rehabilitation of sick but potentially viable units without reference to RBI both in the large and small scale sector.

(5) Revival of sick industrial units is also facilitated by amalgamation/merger of sick units with healthy units. Tax benefits are given under Section 72(A) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 to the healthy company for revival of the amalgamating sick unit.

(6) Government has set up the National Renewal Fund which would, inter-alia, provide for payment of compensation to workers affected by industrial restructuring.

(7) On the advice of the Government of India, the Reserve Bank of India has set up State Level Inter-Institutional Committees (SLIICs) in all States under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Industries Department of the concerned State

Government for working out a rehabilitation package for revival of sick but viable small scale units.

(8) Financial assistance in the form of long term equity type assistance upto Rs. 1,50,000/- to units with a project cost not exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs at a nominal service charge of one per cent per annum is also available to potentially viable but sick small scale industrial units from the National Equity Fund set up in August, 1987.

(9) The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has been established to function as an Apex Bank for tiny and small scale industries.

A separate Refinance Scheme for Rehabilitation (RSR) is being managed by SIDBI for revival of potentially viable but sick small scale industrial units.

Formulation of National Renewable Energy Policy

*251. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to conduct a policy analysis and form a development cell to facilitate formulation of national renewable energy policy and a statutory Act on the subject;

(b) whether it is a fact that the generation cost of conventional power is on the rise and that of renewable energy on the decline and if so, how soon the commercial viability of renewable energy project will be at par with those of conventional energy; and

(c) whether Government would introduce regulatory measures by insisting on the use of solar energy for water-heating by making it mandatory and what are the other measures envisaged to conserve energy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) In order to realise the full potential of renewable energy sources by systematic and sustained measures, Government proposes to formulate a comprehensive renewable energy policy which will help to create awareness, foster technology development and demonstration, accelerate commercialisation. The policy formulation exercise will be carried out by the Ministry with available assistance from outside experts as and when required.

The cost of conventional power has been increasing. The costs of renewable energy systems would be coming down with advances in technologies, increase in demand and volume of production. Technologies, for power generation from wind canal based small hydro, biomass cogeneration are becoming competitive in comparison with new conventional power projects. Further development efforts are under way to improve performance and to achieve cost reduction in respect of other potential technologies through the involvement of Research & Development establishments and industry.

However, commercial viability of renewable energy vis-a-vis conventional energy would be established only if new criteria are adopted for cost comparisons, which need to take into account various factors such as costs and hidden subsidies for exploration, mining and transportation of fossil fuels used for the generation of conventional power, alongwith the environmental and health benefits of renewable energy. A proper basis for comparison of renewable energy projects with conventional energy projects would be one of the key features in the proposed renewable policy.

(c) Based on the recommendations of a group constituted by the Government on "Installation of Solar Assisted water heating systems in functional buildings", and the Third Conference of Chief Ministers/Ministers of Non-Conventional Energy held in September, 1994 State Governments have been requested to consider issuing directives to local bodies